

Message Text

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TAGS: MPOL, NATO CANADA

SUBJECT: LTDP--CANADIAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL

REF: USNATO 4487

FOLLOWING ARE THE TEXTS OF PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S
LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE MINISTER DANSON'S
LETTER TO SEC BROWN SETTING OUT THE RATIONALE FOR THE
CANADIAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL ON THE LTDP:

BEGIN TEXT:

OTTAWA, CANADA
APRIL 24, 1978

DEAR JIMMY:

WITHIN A FEW WEEKS COLLEAGUES FROM THE MEMBER STATES OF
THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE WILL MEET AS YOUR GUESTS
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IN WASHINGTON. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR
US TO TAKE THE MEASURE OF PROBLEMS LIKELY TO FACE US
IN THE 1980'S AND I AM CONCERNED TO MAKE SURE THAT WE
TURN IT TO GOOD ACCOUNT.

AT OUR MEETING IN LONDON YOU PUT BEFORE US A SET OF
PROPOSALS ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS, LONG TERM DEFENCE

REQUIREMENTS AND CO-OPERATION IN DEFENSE PRODUCTION, TO WHICH WE AGREED. I SEE THESE PROPOSALS AS BEING INTIMATELY LINKED AS, I AM SURE, YOU DID WHEN YOU PUT THEM FORWARD. IT IS IMPORTANT, I BELIEVE, TO PRESERVE THIS LINKAGE SO THAT WE CAN BE SURE THAT THE EVOLUTION OF DEFENCE POLICY WILL BE CLOSELY RELATED TO FOREIGN POLICY RATHER THAN DEVELOP INDEPENDENTLY OF IT.

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PROSPECTS FOR EAST-WEST RELATIONS IS CLEARLY THE RIGHT POINT OF DEPARTURE. IT SHOULD GIVE US A BASIS FOR DETERMINING THE CONTINGENCIES AGAINST WHICH WE MUST GUARD. WHEN WE HAVE MADE THAT DETERMINATION, WE SHALL BE BETTER PLACED TO DECIDE HOW MOST EFFECTIVELY TO DETER THE RISKS WE SEE OR, IF ALL ELSE FALLS, DEFEND OURSELVES IN A SITUATION OF ARMED CONFLICT.

THE LINKAGE DOES NOT STOP THERE. THE WHOLE PROCESS HAS ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS WHICH, AS HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, WE CANNOT IGNORE. THERE WILL BE OBVIOUS LIMITS TO THE STRENGTH OF OUR MILITARY POSTURE IF WE DO NOT MANAGE TO GET OUR ECONOMIES ON THEIR PROPER COURSE. CLEARLY WE WILL ALSO GET BETTER VALUE OUT OF OUR RESOURCES IF WE MEET OUR SECURITY REQUIREMENTS ON A MORE RATIONAL BASIS THAN WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE THUS FAR.

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WE HAVE ONLY TWO DAYS IN WHICH TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES IN THEIR BROAD POLITICAL DIMENSION. IF WE ARE TO DO JUSTICE TO THEM AND TO THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THEM, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES ACCORDINGLY.

I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD SET ASIDE THE NORMAL AGENDA ITEMS OF A NATO MEETING ON WHICH OUR MINISTERS WILL HAVE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO DELIBERATE. I ALSO BELIEVE, AS WE AGREED THE LAST TIME WE MET, THAT WE MUST ABANDON THE PRACTICE OF READING SET STATEMENTS TO ONE ANOTHER. IF SOME OF OUR COLLEAGUES, FOR REASONS OF LANGUAGE OR FOR OTHER REASONS, WERE TO BE RELUCTANT TO DO SO, PERHAPS WE COULD GET AGREEMENT ON DISTRIBUTING SUCH STATEMENTS AT THE OUTSET OF OUR MEETINGS.

AS HOST AND PROPONENT OF THE MAIN THEMES THAT WILL BE BEFORE US I KNOW THAT YOU ARE TAKING A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE SUCCESS OF OUR MEETING. IF YOU FELT THAT OUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS WOULD BE ENHANCED AND THE SPECIAL

CHARACTER OF OUR MEETING GIVEN PROPER REFLECTION BY TAKING THE CHAIR YOURSELF, YOU COULD COUNT ON MY FULL

SUPPORT.

I WOULD WELCOME YOUR REACTION TO THE APPROACH I HAVE TRIED TO DELINEATE IN THIS LETTER. I INTEND TO WRITE ON SIMILAR LINES TO JIM CALLAGHAN AND HELMUT SCHMIDT. IN THE MEANTIME, I HOPE THAT OUR OFFICIALS WILL WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER IN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A PRODUCTIVE MEETING.

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WITH BEST WISHES AND WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS.

"PIERRE E. T."

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DEAR HAROLD: APRIL 26, 1978

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT LETTER DEALING WITH THE LONG-TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME, WHICH TOM ENDERS PASSED TO ME ON MARCH 17TH. I HAVE WAITED UNTIL NOW TO REPLY IN ORDER THAT I MIGHT FIRST HAVE A BETTER PICTURE OF WHAT KIND OF REPORT ON THE PROGRAMME MIGHT EMERGE FOR OUR CONSIDERATION FROM NATO'S EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP.

I SHARE WITH YOU THE DESIRE THAT THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAMME BE SUCCESSFUL. WE MUST NOT MISS THIS CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THE FRAMEWORK OF ALLIANCE DEFENCE CO-OPERATION FOR THE NEXT DECADE. WE, TOO, HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE NATO TASK FORCES HAVE DEVELOPED IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. THEY REPRESENT A MEANINGFUL SET OF PROPOSALS WHICH, TAKEN AS A WHOLE, WOULD PERMIT THE ALLIANCE BETTER TO ADAPT ITS OVERALL POSTURE TO THE NEEDS OF THE 1980'S AND BEYOND. HOWEVER, AS YOU STATED IN YOUR LETTER, NOT ALL TASK FORCE PROPOSALS ARE LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL NATIONS AT THIS TIME, AT LEAST IN THEIR PRESENT FORM. I AM CONCERNED THAT WE RUN THE RISK, ON THE PRESENT COURSE, OF TURNING THE EXCELLENT WORK WHICH HAS BEEN DONE TO DATE INTO A REPORT TO OUR HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT WHICH IS SOMETHING LESS THAN BOLD. INDEED, FROM REPORTS WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED ON DEVELOPMENTS ONGOING IN NATO'S EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP DELIBERATIONS, IT APPEARS THAT THE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT IS BEING BLUNTED. I THINK THE REASONS FOR THIS ARE OBVIOUS. THE POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS OF THE LONG-TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME ARE SUCH THAT FEW OF OUR COLLEAGUES WILL BE IN A POSITION TO COMMIT THEMSELVES, WITHOUT

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RESERVATION, TO THE WIDE RANGE OF COMPLEX PROGRAMMES CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION. I BELIEVE THAT SUCH COMMITMENTS WILL BE POSSIBLE ONLY AFTER HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT HAVE DISCUSSED THE BROADER CONCEPTUAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE LONG-TERM ASSESSMENT OF TRENDS IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS AND THE EVOLVING WARSAW PACT THREAT TO NATO.

I THINK I WOULD BE LESS THAN FRANK IF I DID NOT SAY THAT, WITH THE TIME CONSTRAINTS FACING ME, I WILL BE ABLE, AT OUR MEETING ON 18-19 OF MAY, TO DO LITTLE MORE THAN ACCEPT THAT THE MAJORITY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FLOWING FROM THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCES ADDRESS VALID MILITARY REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO CORRECT THE DEFICIENCIES IN NATO'S OVERALL POSTURE. I WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO

COMMIT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO THOSE PROGRAMMES WHICH WOULD REQUIRE FUNDING BEYOND THAT NOW PROVIDED IN CURRENT CANADIAN NATIONAL PLANS. I SUSPECT THAT MANY OTHER MINISTERS WILL BE IN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME POSITION AND DOUBT THAT THE BASIC SITUATION WILL CHANGE MUCH BY THE TIME OF THE SUMMIT MEETING.

ESSENTIALLY, I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE TRYING TO CARRY THE LONG-TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME TOO FAR TOO SOON. WE SHOULD FIRST SEEK FROM THE SUMMIT MEETING COMMITMENTS IN PRINCIPLE TO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE TO MAINTAIN THE ALLIANCE DETERRENT POSTURE, AND AN EXPRESSION OF FIRM POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT DECADE. WE SHOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT OUR LEADERS RECOGNIZE THE CALL THAT WILL BE MADE ON NATIONAL RESOURCES, AS OUTLINED IN THE LONG-TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME REPORT, TO ENSURE THAT STABILITY AND MUTUAL SECURITY ARE MAINTAINED.

WITH FIRM GUIDANCE FROM HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON
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THE PRINCIPLES WHICH SHOULD GUIDE NATIONS IN BRINGING THE PROGRAMME TO FRUITION, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE THE EXTENSIVE WORK WHICH HAS BEEN DONE TO DATE, DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION, AND PROCEED TO INCORPORATE THE OVERALL REQUIREMENTS INTO NATO AND NATIONAL PLANS FOR BOTH THE MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM.

YOU WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE OF THE CONCERNS IN THIS REGARD, WHICH CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE EXPRESSED REPEATEDLY IN VARIOUS NATO FORUMS. IN ORDER TO FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND CAPITALS ON THESE CONCERNS, WHICH APPEAR TO BE SHARED BY OTHERS, OUR NATO DELEGATION WILL IN THE NEAR FUTURE BE TABLING IN BRUSSELS AN ALTERNATIVE TEXT OF A POSSIBLE REPORT TO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FROM THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE REFLECTING THE APPROACH WE CONSIDER ESSENTIAL. I HOPE THAT THIS TEXT WILL BE BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION AND THAT YOU WILL PROVIDE ME WITH YOUR VIEWS ONCE YOU HAVE EXAMINED IT.

IN CLOSING, I WISH TO REITERATE THAT I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE WILL ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN PUTTING A LONG-TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME IN PLACE.

WITH PERSONAL BEST WISHES, YOUR SINCERELY, (SIGNED)
BARNEY DANSON. END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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